

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eamonn Morrison on 7 November 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 23, line 2, after "hydrophobic polymer" insert:

-----in the form of a homo- or copolymer of propylene or in the form of a homo- or copolymer of ethylene,-----.

In claim 23, line 4, delete "obtainable" and insert, therfor:

-----obtained-----.

In claim 24, line 2, after "hydrophobic polymer" insert:

-----in the form of a homo- or copolymer of propylene or in the form of a homo- or copolymer of ethylene,-----.

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In claim 24, line 4, delete "obtainable" and insert, therfor:

-----obtained-----.

In claim 26, line 1, after "hydrophobic polymers" insert

-----in the form of a homo- or copolymer of propylene or in the form of a homo- or copolymer of ethylene,-----.

In claim 26, line 2, after "hydrophobic polymers" insert

-----in the form of a homo- or copolymer of propylene or in the form of a homo- or copolymer of ethylene,-----.

In claim 26, line 3, delete "which is obtainable" and insert, therfor:

-----and is obtained-----.

In claim 26, line 4, delete "15" and insert, therefor"

-----150-----.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: No prior art has been found that either teaches or fairly suggests the production of a polymer

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composition that comprises a hydrophobic propylene or ethylene (co)polymer to which is blended a polyisobutylene which has been modified to include terminal polar groups, as recited herein, or the subsequent articles of manufacture, or the process for dyeing said polymer blend article. The rejection of the claims over the reference to Takemura et al (EP 0 673 949) is not tenable since the reference teaches the copolymerization of the functional species directly into the polyisobutylene, either to form a block copolymer or a random copolymer, as opposed to the attachment to a terminal group thereon. The reference to Baxter, Jr. et al fails to teach the polyethylene or polypropylene copolymer constituent, as recited herein. As such, the rejection thereto is untenable. The restriction requirement was withdrawn in view of the allowability of the composition claims. since there are no other outstanding issues with regard to the clarity or enablement of the claims, these claims are deemed to contain allowable subject matter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan M. Nutter whose telephone number is 571-272-1076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nathan M. Nutter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

nmn

7 November 2008